

REMARKS

This application was allowed in the Notice of Allowability mailed January 26, 2006. The issue fee has not been paid.

Subsequent to the receipt of the Notice of Allowance, Applicants noted a minor inconsistency on page 2 of the Examiner's Amendment. The requested amendment is submitted to change claim 36 in order to replace the word "optical" with "optic" in order to maintain proper antecedent basis for the claim recitations.

The requested amendment is fully supported by the specification and drawings, will not require an additional search, and does not raise new issues. In addition, Applicants submit that this amendment merely embodies the correction of formal matters and does not affect the scope of the allowed claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment be entered and the requested changes made.

Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Applicants received a Notice of Allowability and Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) due, dated January 26, 2006. In the Notice of Allowability, the Examiner provided a statement of reasons for allowance in which the Examiner asserts that the Examiner's Amendment accompanying the Notice "was required to patentably distinguish the claims over Leckrone (5,026,366) because the barrier(s) 22 and 32 (Figures 2-3) are not located 'beyond' the distal end of the suction conduit, etc."

Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's reasons why the claims patentably distinguish from the prior art. For example, Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's apparent assertion that the listed features are the only reason the claims are allowable over Leckrone, and/or the rest of the prior art. Instead,

Applicants submit that claims 36-52 and 54-66 are patentably distinguishable from the prior art at least because the prior art, either alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest the recitations therein.

The Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance might be construed to contain characterizations of the claims and the prior art with which Applicants do not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicants decline to subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

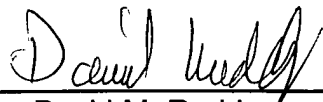
In discussing the claims in this Amendment, it is to be understood that Applicants are in no way intending to limit the scope of the claims to any exemplary embodiments described in the specification or abstract and/or shown in the drawings. Rather, Applicants are entitled to have the claims interpreted broadly, to the maximum extent permitted by statute, regulation, and applicable case law.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: February 7, 2006

By: 
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